



US008950450B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Hedaya

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 8,950,450 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Feb. 10, 2015**

- (54) **REVERSIBLE NESTED HANDBAGS**
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- (*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 519 days.
- (21) Appl. No.: **13/297,922**
- (22) Filed: **Nov. 16, 2011**
- (65) **Prior Publication Data**
US 2012/0125496 A1 May 24, 2012

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- Related U.S. Application Data**
- (60) Provisional application No. 61/415,443, filed on Nov. 19, 2010.
- (51) **Int. Cl.**
A45C 3/08 (2006.01)
- (52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **A45C 3/08** (2013.01)
USPC **150/104; 150/113; 150/108**
- (58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC 150/104, 105, 108, 113
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**
A pair of nested handbags includes an outer handbag and an inner handbag that is contained within an inner compartment of the outer handbag. The outer handbag has a reversible body and thus offers two different appearances depending upon how the outer handbag is worn. The outer handbag includes first and second handles that are attached to the outer handbag in such a way that the handles have the same appearance when the outer handbag is worn in either the first or second appearance.

8 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets

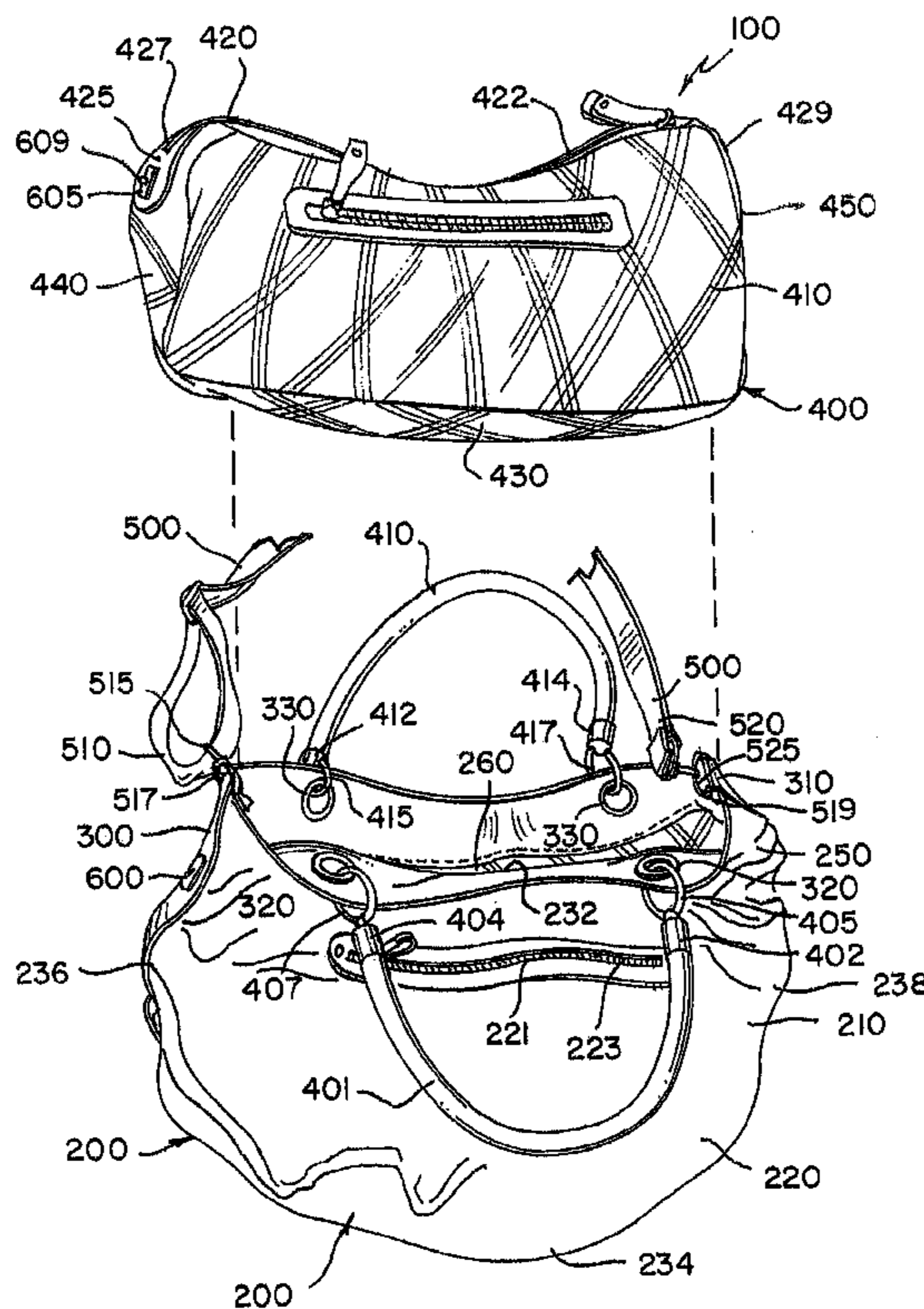


FIG. 1

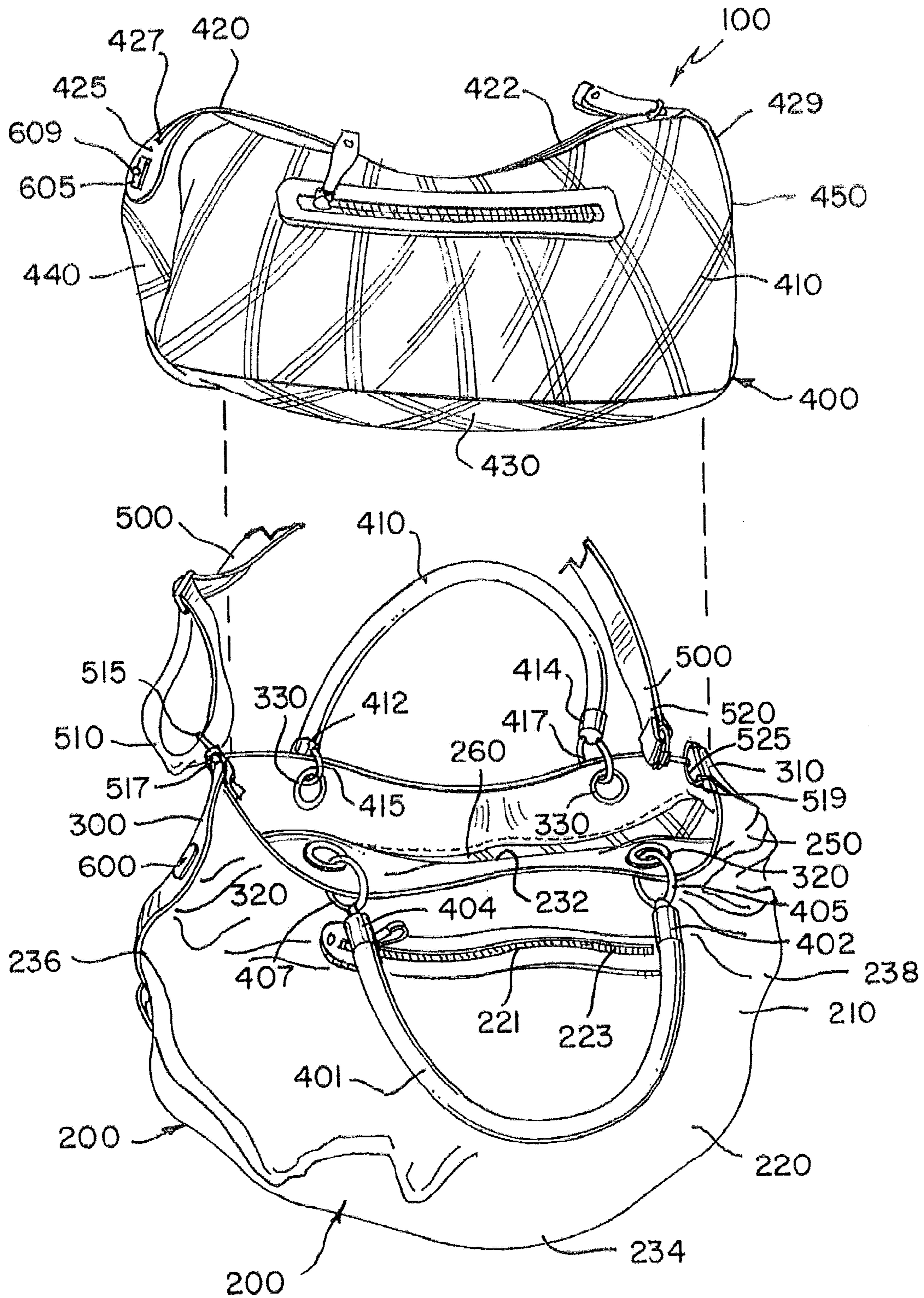
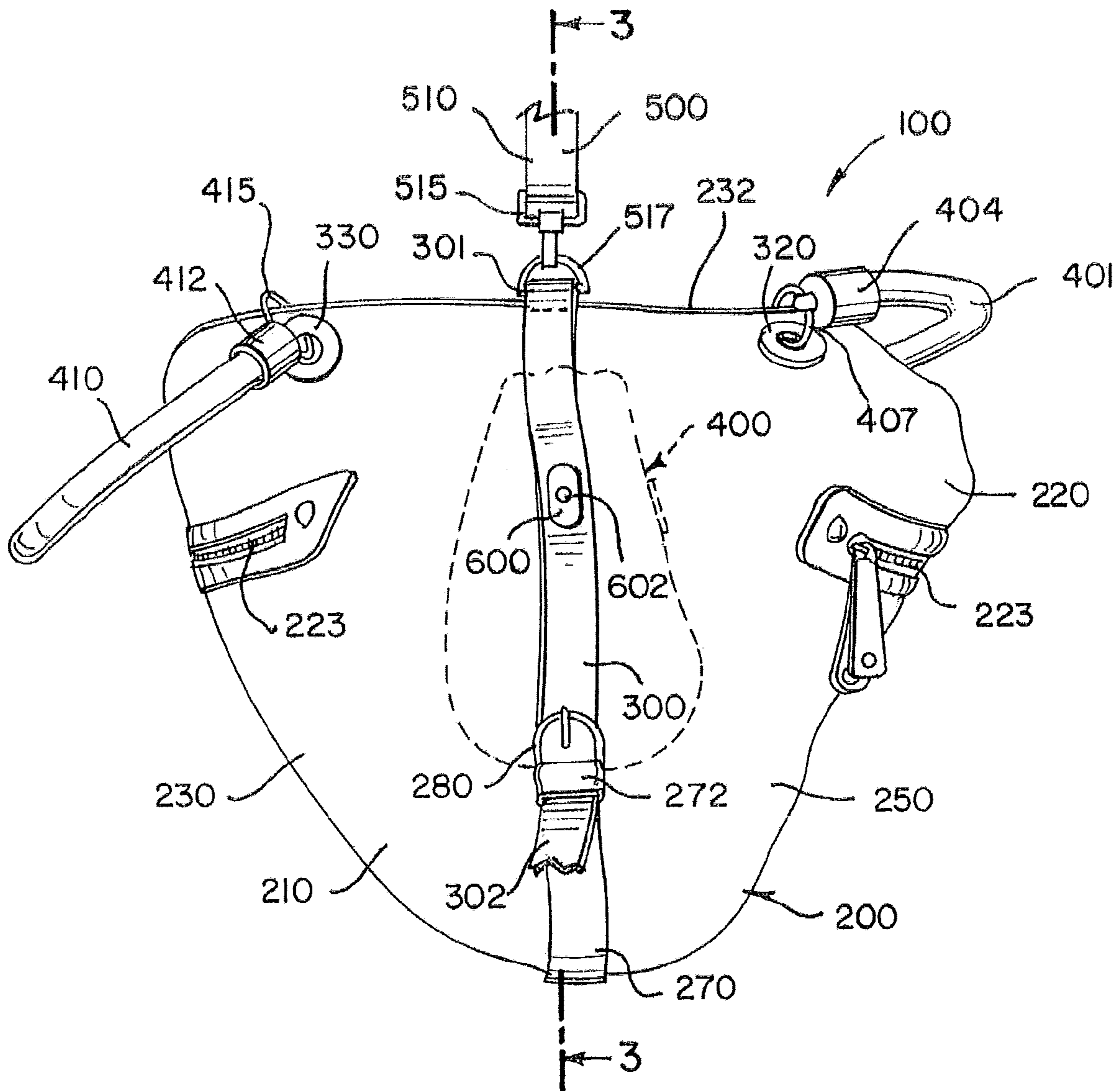


FIG. 2



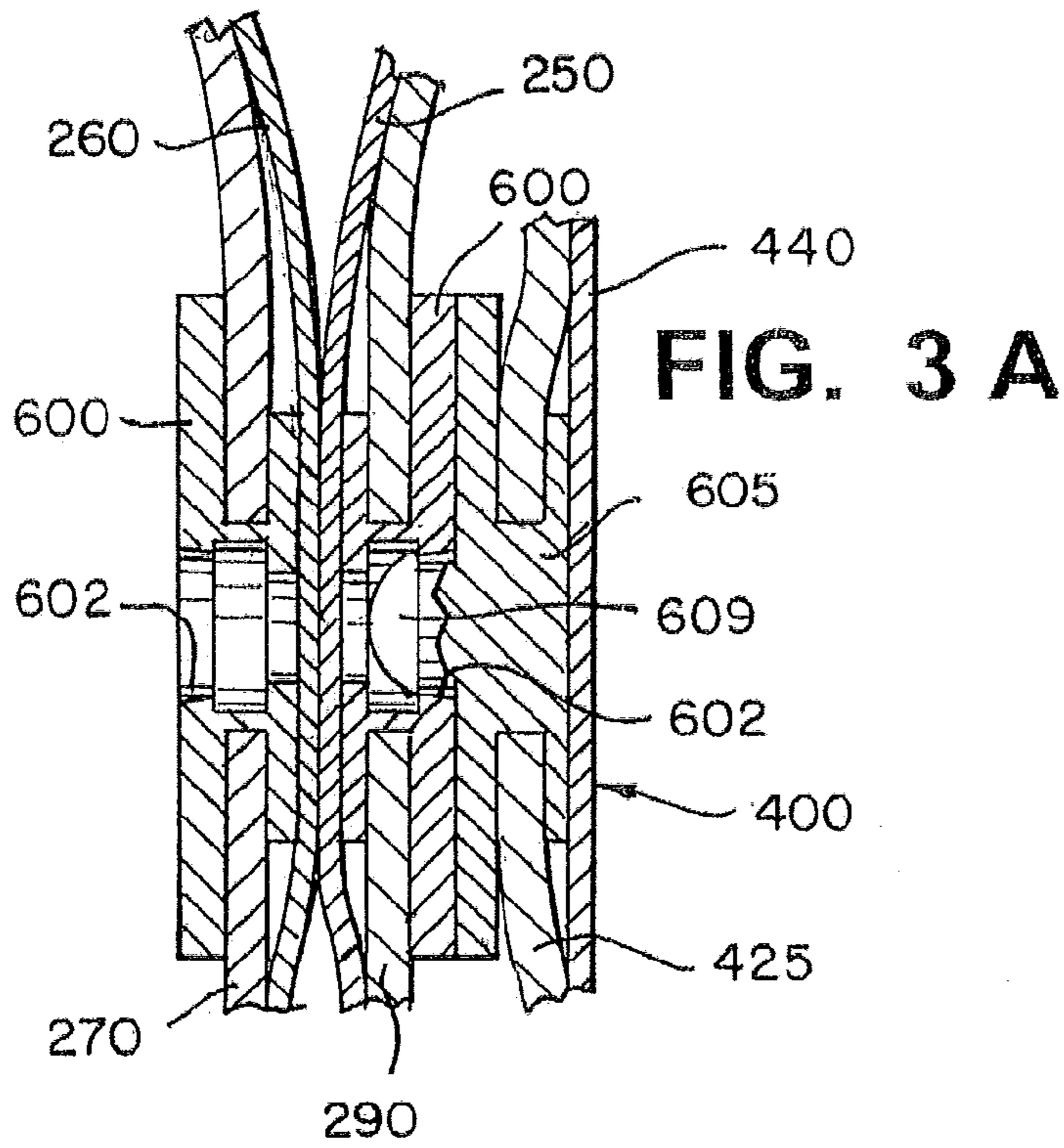


FIG. 4 A

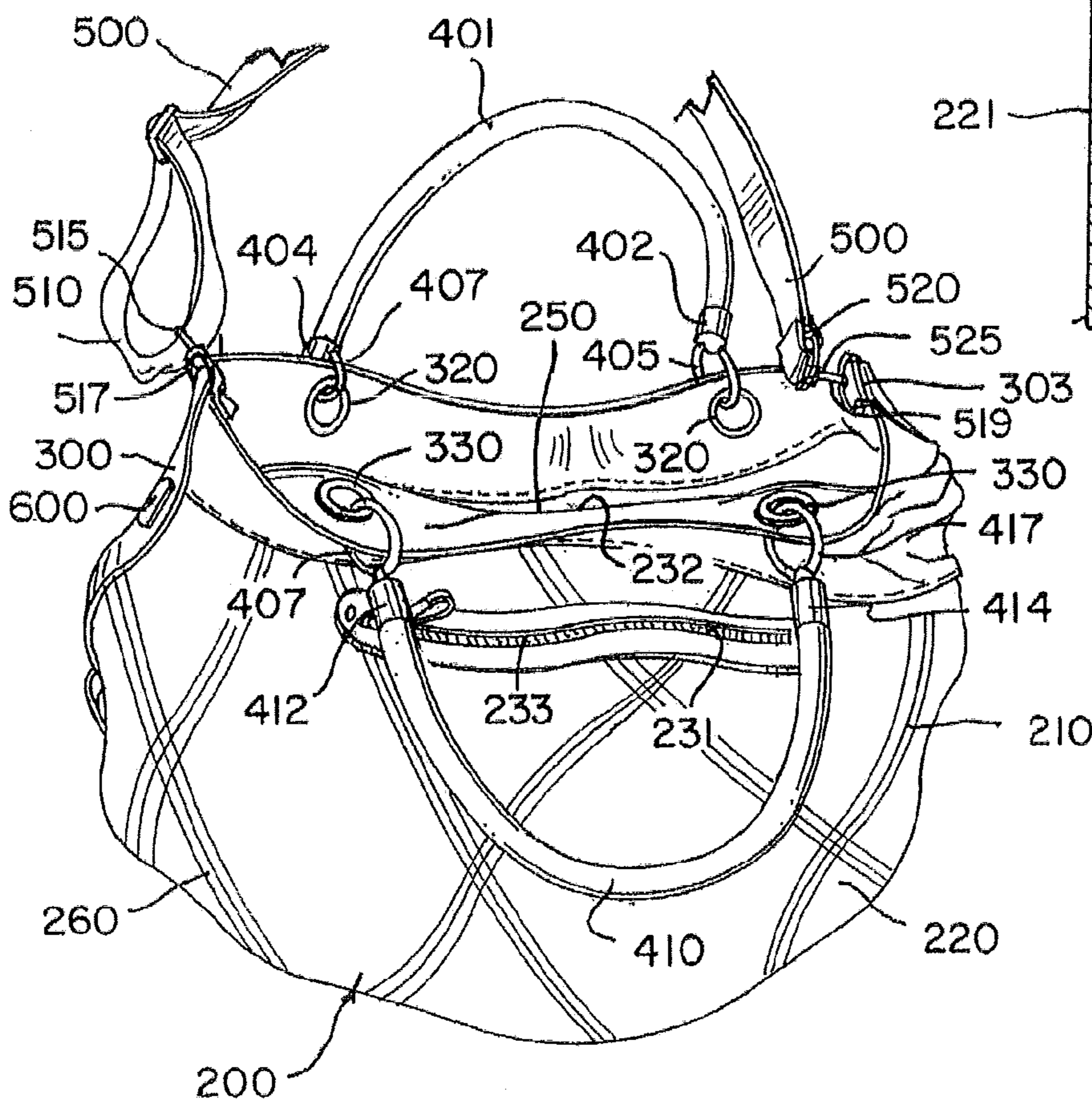
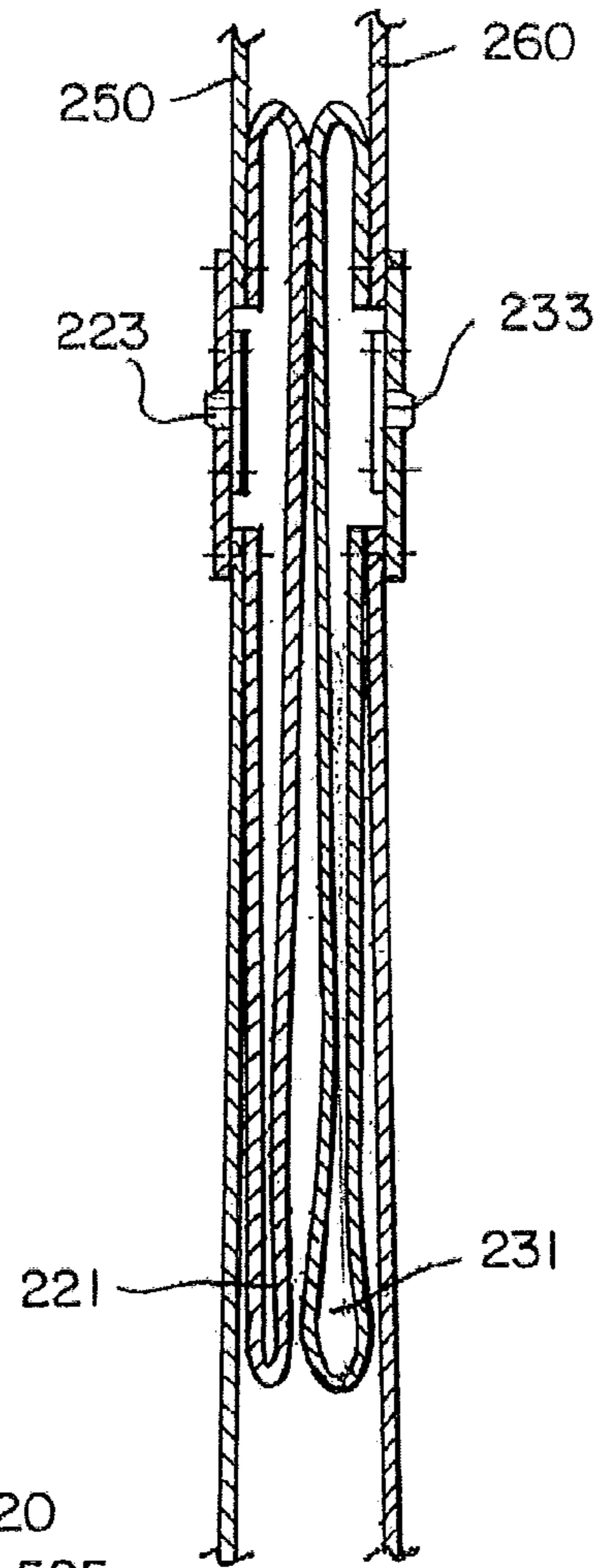


FIG. 5

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REVERSIBLE NESTED HANDBAGSCROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATION

The present application claims the benefit of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 61/415,443, filed Nov. 19, 2010, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to fashion accessories and in particular, to a reversible handbag construction that includes a reversible outer handbag and an inner handbag with is securely, yet removably, attached to the outer handbag in either configuration.

BACKGROUND

As is well known, one of the more important accessories for a woman is a handbag since it is not only a functional item but also at the same time makes a fashion statement. The number of handbags available to the consumer is ever increasing since most fashion houses have their own line of handbags and there are a number of companies that specialize or focus on the manufacture of handbags. Also, designer handbags are increasingly more and more coveted by consumers as they have increasingly become more of a status symbol and define the current fashion trends.

It is therefore common for a woman to have a number of handbags in her collection since many of the handbags are intended for specific types of functions or uses. For example, most women have one or more everyday handbags that are carried to and from work and typically are sized to carry an agenda or the like as well as cosmetic products, a cell phone, etc. For more formal events or evening plans, a smaller, more formal style handbag is typically used. In addition, handbags are available in a great number of different shapes and sizes and moreover, handbags can be made from a number of different types of materials, such as exotic skins (alligator, etc.), suede, fabrics, smooth leather, textured leather, etc.

One type of handbag that has become more popular is a convertible or nested handbag in which an inner, removable handbag is wholly contained within an outer handbag. The outer handbag may belong to a set of differently styled similar units, and thereby, serve merely as a shell, providing a way to change the outer appearance of the combined unit, while not appreciably affecting the storage or organization of items within the inner handbag. Another advantage of the nested design is the possibility of using each member of the pair of handbags as a separate and independent entity.

There is a perceived need for an improved handbag that provides not only the advantages associated with a nested configuration but also provides other advantages that are associated with other handbag styles.

SUMMARY

In one embodiment of the present invention, a pair of nested handbags includes an outer handbag and an inner handbag that is contained within the outer handbag. The outer handbag is formed of a reversible body that includes at least first and second side pieces that are affixed to one another to define an interior compartment. The first and second side pieces each includes a top edge at which the interior compartment can be accessed. Each of the first and second side pieces includes a pair of handle openings formed therein. Each of the

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first and second side pieces includes a first face and an opposite second face. In a first wearing position, the first faces represent the inner faces contained within the interior compartment and in a second wearing position, the second faces represent the inner faces contained within the interior compartment. The first faces and the second faces have different appearances.

The inner handbag that is shaped and sized to be received and contained within the interior compartment of the outer handbag. The outer handbag includes a first handle that is coupled to the first side piece through the pair of handle openings formed therein. A second handle is coupled to the second side piece through the pair of handle openings formed therein. In each of the first and second wearing positions, the first and second handles have the same appearance relative to the body.

A first pair of first coupling members is attached to two ends of the outer handbag along the second faces thereof. A second pair of first coupling members is attached to the two ends of the outer handbag along the first faces thereof. The inner handbag includes a pair of second coupling members that are attached to the two ends of the inner handbag and are configured to interlocking mate with one of the first pair of first coupling members and the second pair of first coupling members, thereby permitting the inner handbag to be detachably connected to the outer handbag and contained within the interior compartment when the outer handbag is in either the first wearing position or the second wearing position.

These and other aspects, features and advantages shall be apparent from the accompanying Drawings and description of certain embodiments of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is an exploded perspective view of reversible nested handbags according to one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is an end elevation view of reversible nested handbags according to the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line 3-3 of FIG. 2;

FIG. 3A is a close-up of a local area of the handbags of FIG. 3;

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line 4-4 of FIG. 3;

FIG. 4A is a close-up of a local area of the handbags shown in FIG. 4; and

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of the outer handbag of FIG. 1 in a reversed (inverted) condition.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF CERTAIN
EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the present invention, a fashion accessory **100** is provided and is illustrated in FIGS. 1-5. The fashion accessory **100** is in the form of a pair of nested handbags including an outer handbag **200** and an inner handbag **400**. It will be appreciated that the outer handbag **200** may belong to a plurality of similar outer handbags of various colors and stylistic varieties, while the inner handbag **400** which may come in any number of different forms and styles and storage configurations.

In accordance with the present invention, the outer handbag **200** is formed of a body **210** that includes a first side piece **220** and a second side piece **230** that are attached to one another as described herein to form the assembled outer handbag **200**. The joined first and second side pieces **220**, **230**

define an interior compartment **240** that receives and stores items and in this case also receives and contains the inner handbag **400**.

The first and second side pieces **220**, **230** are generally rectangular shape and each includes a top edge **232**, a bottom edge **234** and two opposing end edges **236**, **238**. The outer handbag **200** is assembled by attaching the first and second side pieces **220**, **230** to one another about the peripheral edges thereof with the exception of the top edge **232** which is left open to permit access to the interior compartment **240**. The first and second side pieces **220**, **230** can be attached to one another using any number of different techniques, including stitching, etc.

Each of the first and second side pieces **220**, **230** has a first surface **250** and a second surface **260**. The outer handbag **200** is designed to be a reversible handbag that provides two different appearances depending on how the handbag is worn and therefore, in the first wearing or display position (FIG. 1), the first surfaces **250** represent the inner surfaces that define the interior compartment **240** and the second surfaces **260** represent the outer surfaces that face outward. In a second wearing or display position (FIG. 5) when the outer handbag **200** has been reversed (inverted), the second surfaces **260** represent the inner surface that define the interior compartment **240** and the first surfaces **250** represent the outer surface that face outward.

In the illustrated embodiment, the bottom edges **234** are attached to one another with stitching and include a first strap **270** that is attached with two rows of stitching to both the first side piece **220** and the second side piece **230** and more particularly are attached to the second surfaces **260** thereof. The first strap **270** has a first end **272** and an opposing second end **274** and as illustrated, the first strap **270** is not limited to being disposed along the bottom edge and at least partially extends up the two opposing end edges **236**, **238** toward the top edge **232**. The first end **272** has a first buckle **280** and similarly, the second end **274** has a second buckle **282**.

The outer handbag **200** also includes a second strap **290** that is attached with two rows of stitching to both the first side piece **220** and the second side piece **230** and more particularly are attached to the first surfaces **250** thereof. The second strap **290** has a first end **292** and an opposing second end **294** and as illustrated, the second strap **290** is not limited to being disposed along the bottom edge (of the first surfaces **250**) and at least partially extends up the two opposing end edges **236**, **238** toward the top edge **232**. The first end **292** has a first buckle **296** and similarly, the second end **294** has a second buckle **298**.

It will therefore be appreciated that in the first wearing position, the first strap **270** is exposed, while in the second wearing position, the second strap **290** is exposed.

The outer handbag **200** also includes a third strap **300** that extends along the end edge **236**. The third strap **300** is not attached to the body along its entire length but instead, the third strap **300** is only partially attached to the body. The third strap **300** actually extends along the end edge **236**, with the second surfaces **260** facing outward, and is looped over the top edge **232** and then extends along the end edge **236** of the first surfaces **250**. The third strap **300** has a first end **302** and an opposing second end **304**, with the first and second ends **302**, **304** being free ends that include openings (eyelets) to permit the prong of the respective buckle to be received therein. More specifically, the first end **302** is designed to mate with the buckle **280**, while the second end **304** is designed to mate with the buckle **296**.

At the top edge **232**, the third strap **300** defined a loop **301** that is defined above the top edge **232**.

The outer handbag **200** also includes a fourth strap **310** that extends along the end edge **238**. The fourth strap **310** is not attached to the body along its entire length but instead, the fourth strap **310** is only partially attached to the body. The fourth strap **310** actually extends along the end edge **238**, with the second surfaces **260** facing outward, and is looped over the top edge **232** and then extends along the end edge **238** of the first surfaces **250**. The fourth strap **310** has a first end **312** and an opposing second end **314**, with the first and second ends **312**, **314** being free ends that include openings (eyelets) to permit the prong of the respective buckle to be received therein. More specifically, the first end **312** is designed to mate with the buckle **282**, while the second end **314** is designed to mate with the buckle **298**.

At the top edge **232**, the fourth strap **310** defined a loop **303** that is defined above the top edge **232**.

The body **210** can be formed of more than one material. For example, when the outer handbag **200** is a reversible handbag, the inner surface **260** can be formed of one material to give a first appearance, while the outer surface **250** is formed of a different material to give a second appearance that is different than the first appearance. In the illustrated embodiment, the inner surface **260** can be formed of a fabric material (e.g., plaid cloth) and the outer surface **250** can be formed of leather.

The second surface **260** of the first side piece **220** includes a side pocket **221** that is accessible via a zipper **223**. The second surface **260** of the second side piece **230** can be free of a pocket or alternatively, the second surface **260** of the second side piece **230** can include a side pocket as shown in FIG. 2. The first surface **250** of the first side piece **220** includes a side pocket **231** that is accessible via a zipper **233**. The first surface **250** of the second side piece **230** can be free of a pocket or alternatively, the first surface **250** of the second side piece **230** can include a side pocket as shown in FIG. 2. The two side pockets **221**, **231** are not accessible to one another even though they are located side-by-side.

The first side piece **220** includes a pair of spaced openings and metal rings **320** that are formed adjacent the top edge **232**. Similarly, the second side piece **230** includes a pair of spaced openings and metal rings **330** that are formed adjacent the top edge **232**. The metal rings **320**, **330** are formed in the same locations in the respective side pieces **220**, **230** such that when the outer handbag **200** is fully assembled and laid flat, the openings and metal rings **320**, **330** are axially aligned with one another. The metal rings **320**, **330** are fixed and not movable.

A first handle **401** is provided and includes a first end **402** and an opposing second end **404**. The first end **402** is coupled to one metal ring **320**, while the second end **404** is coupled to the other metal ring **320**. In the illustrated embodiment, the first end **402** includes a metal ring **405** that passes through the opening formed in the metal ring **320** to permit movement of the first handle **401**. The second end **404** includes a metal ring **407** that passes through the opening formed in the other metal ring **320** to permit movement of the first handle **401**. Similarly, a second handle **410** is provided and includes a first end **412** and an opposing second end **414**. The first end **412** is coupled to one metal ring **330**, while the second end **414** is coupled to the other metal ring **330**. In the illustrated embodiment, the first end **412** includes a metal ring **415** that passes through the opening formed in the metal ring **330** to permit movement of the second handle **410**. The second end **414** includes a metal ring **417** that passes through the opening formed in the other metal ring **330** to permit movement of the second handle **410**.

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The first handle **401** and the second handle **410** are U-shaped.

The outer handbag **200** also includes an adjustable carrying strap **500** that has a first end **510** and an opposing second end **520**. The first end **510** includes a clip **515** that can be detachably attached to a metal ring **517** that passes through the loop formed by the third strap **300** at the top edge **232** and similarly, the second end **520** that includes a clip **525** that can be detachably attached to a metal ring **519** that passes through the loop formed by the fourth strap **310** at the top edge **232**.

As described herein, the outer handbag **200** is designed to be reversible in that the handbag body can be inverted and worn in either the first position (with the second surfaces **260** facing outward) and the second position (with the first surfaces **250** facing outward).

Due to the manner of attachment of the handles **401, 410** to the handbag body, the handles **401, 410** have the same appearance irregardless of whether the handbag is in the first position or the second position. This offers advantages over conventional reversible (convertible) designs in which the handles have one appearance in one position and a second appearance in the other position when the handbag has been inverted.

In accordance with the present invention, the outer handbag **200** includes a plurality of first coupling members **600** that are configured and located to permit the inner handbag **400** to mate with and be releasably attached to the outer handbag **200**. There are two pairs of first coupling members **600** to allow the inner handbag **400** to be releasably attached to the outer handbag **200** when the outer handbag **200** is positioned within either the first position or second position. The illustrated first coupling member **600** is in the form of a metal plate or tab that includes a center opening **602**. The center opening **602** is a circular shaped opening. The illustrated coupling member **600** has a generally ovoid shape; however, the coupling members **600** can have any number of other shapes, including circular, square, rectangular, etc.

The first pair of first coupling members **600** is positioned along the two opposing end edges **236, 238** of the second surfaces **260** with the opening **602** being accessible. Similarly, the second pair of first coupling members **600** is positioned along the two opposing end edges **236, 238** of the first surfaces **250** with opening **602** being accessible.

In accordance with the present invention, the third and fourth straps **300, 310** are detached from the handbag body from the first coupling members **600** to the free ends **302, 304, 312, 314**, of the third and fourth straps **300, 310**, respectively.

The first and second pairs of coupling members **600** are located opposite one another on the two different surfaces of the handbag body.

Now referring to FIGS. **1** and **4**, the inner handbag **400** is illustrated. The inner handbag **400** is formed of a body **410** that includes a top **420**, a bottom **430**, a first end **440** and an opposing second end **450**. The top **420** includes a zipper **422** that provides access to an interior of the handbag **400** and is formed within a strap **425** that extends across the top **420** of the handbag **400**. The strap **425** includes two ends **427, 429** and at each end, a second coupling member **605** is formed. The illustrated second coupling member **605** is in the form of a metal plate or tab that includes a protrusion **609**. The protrusion **609** is circular shaped and is designed to snap-fittingly mate with the center opening **602** of the first coupling member **600** by being detachably received therein, thereby attaching the inner handbag **400** to the outer handbag **200**.

The shape and size of the inner handbag **400** can vary so long as the inner handbag **400** can be received within the interior compartment of the outer handbag **200**. It will be

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appreciated that the second coupling members **605** are configured to be received within the openings **602** to establish a mechanical fit (e.g., a snap-fit). The inner handbag **400** is not reversible and can be formed of a material that is the same as the material of the outer handbag **200** (either the first surface **250** or the second surface **260**) or it can be formed of a material that is different. In addition, the appearance of the inner handbag **400** can be the same or different relative to the outer handbag **200**. In the illustrated embodiment, the inner handbag **400** has the same print (plaid pattern) as the first surface **250** of the outer handbag **200**.

While the invention has been described in connection with certain embodiments thereof, the invention is capable of being practiced in other forms and using other materials and structures. Accordingly, the invention is defined by the recitations in the claims appended hereto and equivalents thereof.

What is claimed is:

1. A pair of nested handbags comprising:

- an outer handbag that is formed of a reversible body that includes at least first and second side pieces that are affixed to one another to define an interior compartment, the first and second side pieces each includes a top edge at which the interior compartment can be accessed, wherein each of the first and second side pieces includes a pair of handle openings formed therein, each of the first and second side pieces includes a first face and an opposite second face, wherein in a first wearing position, the first faces represent the inner faces contained within the interior compartment and in a second wearing position, the second faces represent the inner faces contained within the interior compartment, the first faces and the second faces having different appearances;
- an inner handbag that is shaped and sized to be received and contained within the interior compartment of the outer handbag;
- a first handle that is coupled to the first side piece through the pair of handle openings formed therein;
- a second handle that is coupled to the second side piece through the pair of handle openings formed therein, wherein in each of the first and second wearing positions, the first and second handles have the same appearance relative to the body;
- a first pair of first coupling members that are attached to two ends of the outer handbag along the second faces thereof;
- a second pair of first coupling members that are attached to the two ends of the outer handbag along the first faces thereof; and
- a pair of second coupling members that are attached to the two ends of the inner handbag and are configured to interlocking mate with one of the first pair of first coupling members and the second pair of first coupling members, thereby permitting the inner handbag to be detachably connected to the outer handbag and contained within the interior compartment when the outer handbag is in either the first wearing position or the second wearing position;
- a first strap formed and attached along a bottom of the reversible body on the second faces thereof, the first strap having buckles at two ends thereof;
- a second strap formed and attached along the bottom of the reversible body on the first faces thereof, the second strap having buckles at two ends thereof;
- a third strap that extends up a first end of the reversible body on the second face thereof and extends over the top edge and down the first face at the first end of the revers-

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ible body, the third strap being attached to the reversible body along a length thereof and having a pair of free ends; and

a fourth strap that extends up a second end of the reversible body on the second face thereof and extends over the top edge and down the first face at the first end of the reversible body, the third strap being attached to the reversible body along a length thereof and having a pair of free ends.

2. The pair of nested handbags of claim 1, wherein the handle openings formed in each of the first and second side pieces includes a reinforcement ring that is fixedly attached to the respective side piece and each end of each handle includes a ring that passes through one reinforcement ring.

3. The pair of nested handbags of claim 1, wherein the first side piece includes a first pocket that is accessible along an opening formed on the second face and a second pocket that is accessible along an opening formed on the first face, the first and second pockets being separated from one another.

4. The pair of nested handbags of claim 1, wherein one free end of the third strap is attached to one buckle of the first strap, while the other free end of the third strap is attached to one buckle of the second strap and similarly, one free end of the

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fourth strap is attached to one buckle of the first strap, while the other free end of the fourth strap is attached to one buckle of the second strap.

5. The pair of nested handbags of claim 1, wherein the third strap forms a loop at the top edge of the first end of the reversible body and the fourth strap forms a loop at the top edge of the first end of the reversible body.

6. The pair of nested handbags of claim 1, wherein two first coupling members are located along the third strap and two first coupling members are located along the fourth strap.

7. The pair of nested handbags of claim 5, wherein the third strap is detached and freely movable from each coupling member to the ends thereof and the fourth strap is detached and freely movable from each coupling member to the ends thereof.

8. The pair of nested handbags of claim 1, wherein the first coupling members comprise metal plates that each includes an opening formed therein and the second coupling members comprise metal plates that each includes a protrusion that is sized and shaped to be interlockingly, yet detachably, mated with a respective first coupling member by being received within the opening.

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